



May 22, 2022

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

4515 Dobie Road
Okemos, MI 48864
517-349-0620

Sixth Sunday in Easter

To make disciples for Jesus Christ. . .

- . . .we **Gather** in faith for worship, prayer, study and fellowship
- . . .we **Equip** the people of God with a faith that works in real life
- . . .we **Serve** the world in the name of Jesus Christ

Pastor:..... Ellen Schoepf
Music Director:.....Debra Borton-McDonough
Organist/Pianist:.....Bruce Williams
Church Secretary:..... Katie Love
Youth & Education DirectorPam Williams
Pastor's email:.....prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org
Church email:.....faith@faithlutheranokemos.org
Website:.....www.faithlutheranokemos.org
Facebook Page:.....facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos

Introduction to the day

Visions abound in the readings for the sixth Sunday of Easter. Paul has a vision about what to do. John has a vision of what will be. Jesus provides visions of peace that surpasses human understanding and power beyond human imagination.

PRELUDE

“Aurelia”

arr. Gerhard Krapf

LAMENTING RACISM

The sin of racism hurts communities of color, fractures human relationships, and denies God’s good creation. Lament is a way for us to recognize the harm caused by racism.

Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus (*Romans 8:35-39*). God’s grace in Christ frees us for the difficult work of recognizing and lamenting racism.

We are all part of one body in Christ, called to act with equity, fairness, and justice. God’s saving love creates grace-filled spaces within us and within our relationships. God’s saving love calls and leads us toward rooting out the racism that continues to infect the body.

Within the whole human family, people of color have experienced both interpersonal aggression and structural oppression instead of abundant life. We recognize and lament the harm racism has caused to *African Descent communities; American Indian and Alaska Native communities; Indigenous Peoples within Canada; Arab and Middle Eastern communities; Asian and Pacific Islander communities; and Latinx communities*. We cry out to you, **hear our lament, O God.**

We have assigned the notion of race to human beings created in God’s own divine image. We have judged God’s beautiful diversity by our flawed and artificial standards. We cry out to you, **hear our lament, O God.**

We have used language and images in ways that equate *black* and *dark* with dirt and sin, and that fail to welcome the treasures of darkness in God’s good creation. We cry out to you, **hear our lament, O God.**

We have accepted practices in our churches and in our society that privilege whiteness over diversity and equity. We have been complicit in how racism continues to exclude and harm people of color. We cry out to you, **hear our lament, O God.**

When one part of the body of Christ hurts, the whole body hurts. As we listen to people who are harmed by racism, we call to you, **open our hearts, O God.**

As we reflect on our daily interactions with people and communities of color, we call to you, **open our hearts, O God.**

As we reconsider what we have been taught about race and racism, we call to you, **open our hearts, O God.**

As we contemplate what we have done and what we have left undone, we call to you, **open our hearts, O God.**

As we labor to create a loving and safe community for our siblings of color, we call to you, **open our hearts, O God.**

Holy and merciful God, as your people we recommit ourselves to loving one another as you have loved us. Help us to learn and discover new ways to live in relationship with and love all others. We pray in the name of the one who has made us one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

GATHERING HYMN

God, In Our Church's Teaching

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2021

Aurelia

Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864

1. God, in our church's teaching, may we be bold and clear;
2. I - sai - ah bold - ly told us you hate our worship ways
3. May these be crucial lessons we teach the old and young;
4. O God, we grieve the violence, the shoot - ings, and the hate;

may it become our practice to counter hate and fear.
when we ignore injustice and simply offer praise.
that racist ways are evil, that sexist ways are wrong.
we grieve our own indifference—our speaking out too late.

We've said that Jesus' message is one that's filled with love,
And Jesus gave a warning: When we— in sin and pride—
In Sunday schools and pulpits, may this be what we speak:
God, in our church's witness, may we say loud and clear:

and yet our sweeping statements are clearly not enough.
refuse to welcome others, we turn our Lord aside.
God made each person precious, beloved and unique.
We welcome every neighbor. We work for justice here.

Copyright © 2021 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Permission is given for free use in worship services.

Email: carolynshymns@gmail.com | New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 16:9-15

A vision compels Paul to move his ministry into Greece. There he meets Lydia, an important person in the business community, whose heart has been opened by God to receive the gospel. Her conversion and baptism provide the impetus for the founding of the church at Philippi.

A reading from Acts.

⁹During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.”

¹⁰When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

¹¹We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, ¹²and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. ¹³On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.” And she prevailed upon us. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

John's vision of a new Jerusalem coming out of heaven provides continuity with God's past actions. Yet in this new city, God's presence replaces the temple, and the glory of God and the Lamb supplants sun and moon.

A reading from Revelation.

¹⁰And in the spirit [one of the angels] carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

²²I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

^{22:1}Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; ⁴they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GATHERING OF THE NOISY OFFERING

The Pantry Ministry is an important and vital part of our community. For the remainder of the summer months our 2nd & 4th Sunday Noisy Offerings will be taken for the Pantry Ministry.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: John 14:23-29

As Jesus talks of returning to the Father, he promises to send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will teach Jesus' followers and remind them of all that Jesus taught. Even more, those in whom God makes a home will experience a peace that overcomes fear.

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²³Jesus answered [Judas (not Iscariot),] “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

²⁵“I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.

²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. ²⁸You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks

Refrain F Dm Gm C

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, give thanks to the ris - en Lord;

F Dm Gm C F

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, give praise to his name.

F Dm B^b C

1 Je - sus is Lord of all the earth;
 2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
 3 We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ;
 4 God has pro - claimed the just re - ward:
 5 Come, let us praise the liv - ing God,

F Dm B^b C *Refrain*

he is the king of cre - a - tion.
 Je - sus has died and has ris - en.
 now we shall live . . . for - ev - er.
 life for all peo - ple, al - le - lu - ia.
 joy - ful - ly sing to our Sav - ior.

Text: Donald Fishel, b. 1950
 Music: Donald Fishel, b. 1950; arr. Betty Pulkingham, b. 1928
 © 1973 Word of God Music, admin. The Copyright Co.

ALLELUIA NO. 1
 8 8 and refrain

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

Prayers of intercession are prayed. To each petition, the assembly responds: Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

The presiding minister concludes the prayers, and the assembly responds:

In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

“Bless His Holy Name”

(Mark Sheppard)

Chancel Choir and Faith Bells Congregation to join in on the refrains

*to Rev. Paul & Rhoda Pfotenhauer in
honor of 43 years of public ministry*

Bless His Holy Name

Psalm 103

Johann Gramann, 1487–1541

Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–78, alt.

Mark Shepperd

Refrain: All

Praise the Lord, O my soul; ——— bless his ho - ly name.

Praise the Lord, O my soul; bless his ho - ly name.

Verse Forget him not whose meekness still bears with all your sin,
who heals your every weakness, renews your life within.

Refrain All

Verse He offers all his treasure of truth and righteousness,
his love beyond our measure, he pities our distress.

Refrain All

Sung in canon; women begin, men enter one measure later.

Verse For as a tender father pities his children here,
God in his arms will gather all those who him like children fear.

Refrain All

Verse In heaven is fixed his dwelling, his rule is over all;
you hosts with might excelling, with praise before him fall.

Refrain All

Sung in canon; men begin, women enter one measure later.

Verse Praise him forever reigning, all here who hear his word,
our life and all sustaining. My soul, oh, praise the Lord!

Refrain All

Bless His Holy Name, by Mark Shepperd, ISBN 0-8006-7403-0
Copyright © 2001 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Permission is hereby granted for duplication of this page for congregational use,
but not sale, provided each copy carries this copyright notice.

Please stand if you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

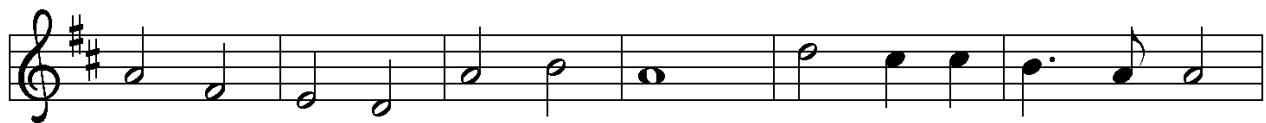
PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is food and drink for the journey.
Take and be filled.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

“When Peace, Like a River”

arr. Kathy Smith

Please stand if you are able.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you
in his grace. **Amen**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

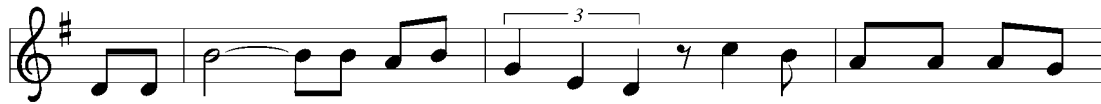
Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, ✝ bless you now and forever. **Amen**

SENDING SONG

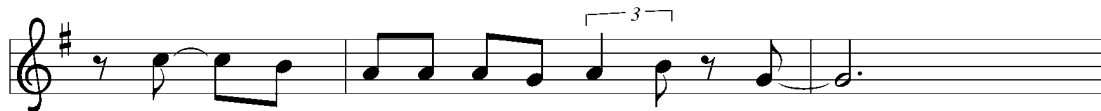
We Are Marching in the Light of God



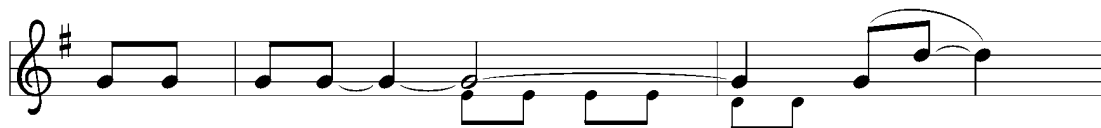
Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -
We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the



nyen' kwen - khos'. *Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',*
light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.

Additional stanzas ad lib.:

We are dancing ...

We are praying ...

We are singing ...

Text: South African traditional; tr. Freedom Is Coming, 1984

Music: SIYAHAMBA, South African traditional

Tr. © 1984 Utrvck. admin. Walton Music Corp.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
Go in peace. Tell what God has done. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“Recessional in a Gregorian Mode”

Henry Kihlken

We encourage those who are able, to remain seated in the chairs for the postlude.

Reader: John McCracken

Lay Assistant: Mike Eschelbach

Ushers: Jon & Elaine Harrison

Coffee Hour: Sunday School Picnic

Year to Date

January 1-April 30st, 2022

Income	\$ 94,127.00
Expenses	<u>\$111,870.00</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$(17,743.00)

Weekly Offering Reports

5/8

Loose Cash	\$ 25.00
General Fund	\$ 7,165.00
Butterflies	\$ 15.00
Roof Fund	\$ 900.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 311.00
Parish House	<u>\$ 100.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 8,516.00
Vanco	
General Operating	\$ 4,057.50
Building	\$ 25.00
Parish House	\$ 25.25
World Hunger	<u>\$ 25.25</u>
Total	\$12,649.00

5/15

Loose Cash	\$ 30.00
Loose Checks	\$ 20.00
General Fund	\$ 1,615.00
Butterflies	\$ 180.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 50.00
Parish House	\$ 50.00
Sunday School	<u>\$ 11.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 1,956.00
Vanco	
General Operating	<u>\$ 385.00</u>
Total	\$ 2,341.00

For a quick overview of giving options, please visit the Faith Lutheran Church website and look for the giving button in the top right corner.

www.faithlutheranokemos.org

Important Upcoming Dates: Please see the Friday e-news for more information. If you do not receive the Friday e-news and would like to please email Katie at klove@faithlutheranokemos.org
May Newsletters are also available in the Narthex.

PICNIC

Everyone is invited to join us after church as we celebrate the end of Sunday School and the beginning of Summer!

When: Sunday, May 22 following worship

Who: Everyone!

Hotdogs, Lemonade and Water will be provided.



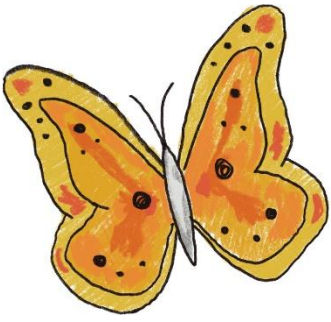
May 29th: Last Day to place butterfly orders

June 5th: Graduation Sunday

June 6th: Green team meets at Faith at 6:30 P.M.

June 12th: Butterfly Release

August 1-5th: VBS



Butterflies For Sale!

On Sunday, June 12, we will be releasing live butterflies outside by our Butterfly Garden. Butterflies are the symbol of new life. And, as we celebrate the Pentecost season and the beginning of summer activities, we will be releasing painted lady butterflies to celebrate God's gift of creation. The Green Team is inviting you to order a butterfly for \$15.00.

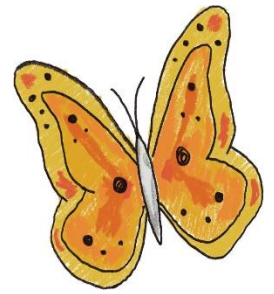
Following worship on June 12th, you will be given your butterfly to release by our garden. This project is a Green Team fundraiser. Place your butterfly order by using the form available in the Narthex or by emailing Katie. Order forms are due by Sunday, May 29th.



Use the form on the next page and tear it out to order your butterfly. You can leave the form with an usher or put it in the offering plate.

Butterflies For Sale!

On Sunday, June 12, we will be releasing live butterflies outside by our Butterfly Garden. Butterflies are the symbol of new life. And, as we celebrate the Pentecost season and the beginning of summer activities, we will be releasing painted lady butterflies to celebrate God's gift of creation. The Green Team is inviting you to order a butterfly for \$15.00. Following worship on June 12th, you will be given your butterfly to release by our garden. This project is a Green Team fundraiser. Place your butterfly order by using the form below and turn it into the church office.



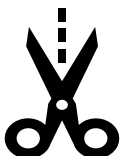
Green Team Butterfly Order Form Order Deadline: Sunday, May 29th

Quantity _____ Total Cost (\$15 each) _____

Name: _____

Dedication (if any): _____

Make checks payable to Faith Lutheran Church.
Please put "Butterflies" in the memo line.



Tear this page out and leave with an usher or in the offering plate.